MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Prevailing financial constraints preclude the possibility of going in for any new Division for the present. Moreover, an Area Manager's office, headed by an officer in the Senior Administrative Grade, is already functioning at Ahmedabad to look after the day-to-day requirements of the local rail-users as well as the Railway Administration. This arrangement is working satisfactorily.

Curtailment in annual Plan size of Railways

2952. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway propose to cut down the annual Plan size of 1993-94 by Rs. 500 crores;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor stating the areas likely to be affected with the pruning of the plan size; and

(c) the manner in which Government propose to fund the projects likely to suffer as a consequence thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Railways propose to cut down plan expenditure during 1993-94 by Rs. 300 crores.

(b) Shortfall in revenue has necessitated this decision. All major plan heads except gauge conversion, MTP, Bridge Works and plan heads dealing with users amenities and Staff quarters are affected.

(c) Pace of execution of affected works may slow down somewhat until the resource position improves.

Construction of overbridge near Mahila College, Rajkot

2953. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to construct over-bridges near Amrapali Cinema and Mahila College (Western Railway) in Rajkot;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons for delay in this regard; and

(c) the time schedule fixed for its completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) No, Sir. A proposal for construction of a road over bridge in replacement of level crossing No. 7 at km. 4/6-7 near Amrapali Cinema and Mahila College between Rajkot-Baktinagar section has been received from the State Govt., preliminary formalities for which are yet to be completed by the State Govt.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Late Running of Trains

2954. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for the spurt of inordinate delay in the running of trains;

(b) whether there has been any computation of mandays lost because of the delays; and

(c) what steps, if any, have been taken to put a stop to the delays?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) Mainly due to reasons like agitations/bandhs on issues not connected with the Railways, natural calamities and accidents etc.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) All possible efforts including intensive chasing and round the clock monitoring are made to eliminate detentions which are within the control of the Railways.

Withdrawal of Trains in Saurashtra Region

2955. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of trains originating from Rajkot and Bhavnagar Railway Divisions and number of narrow-gauge trains have been withdrawn in Saurashtra region recently;

(b) if so, the names of those trains alongwith the reasons for their cancellation;

(c) what is the present status of narrow-gauge lines in above said divisions, as on date;

(d) whether there is any proposal to gauge conversion on narrow gauge line during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(e) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(f) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following trains were initially suspended due to water shortage. Subsequently these trains have been permanently cancelled w.e.f. 1.7.93 on the basis of review of their patronage:—

1. 277/278 Surendra Nagar-Botad Passenger.
2. 313/314 Rajula City-Rajula Jn. Passenger.
3. 345/346 Jetalsar-Junagarh Fast Passenger.
4. 109/110 Ranuj-Kadi Mixed.
5. 249/250 Kalol-Randheja Mixed.
6. 259/262 Mahesana-Viramgam Fast Passenger.
7. 141/142 Mahesana-Taranga Hill Fast Passenger.

(c) There are no narrow gauge lines on Rajkot and Bhavnagar Divisions.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

Late running of Suburban Train from Karjat

2956. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that early hour Suburban train leaving Karjat are never punctual due to inefficiency of Railway administration.

(b) whether it is a fact that irate passengers have resorted to rail roko for repeated recurrence of delay departure of Suburban trains from Karjat; and

(c) if so, whether Government are going to institute an enquiry into this incident to take appropriate action against involved persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) There was a Rail Roko agitation by commuters on 25.11.93.

(c) An enquiry was conducted and further necessary action initiated.

Running of Shatabadi Express between Delhi—Jalandhar

2957. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking any steps to start Shatabadi Express between Delhi—Jalandhar;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) by when it is likely to be started; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE